



PTO Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2022

The PTO mission is to support the educational experience at TJHS and to foster a stronger school community for students, parents and staff.

PTO Board Members in attendance: Brooke Bolinske, Wassila Hamitouche, Karla Henke, Teri Hetzel, Lisa LoJacono, Megan Perkins, Eileen Robinson, Janet Willson, Krista Zizzo

Total attendance: 26

7:03 pm – Welcome (Eileen Robinson)

Welcome to everyone and we hope your families have been healthy this far. Mission was reviewed 1. funding of grants and 2. building a strong, supportive, and resilient TJ community.

7:05 pm – Agenda Item (Krista Zizzo)

President's report: teacher appreciation efforts led by Susan Dolson. Bag with notes, Women's Bean project food, custom TJ socks and Dieter's chocolate bar. School staff is very appreciative and over 50 thank you messages were received from the staff.

Supporting TJ staff and school during the Omicron surge: exercising patience, compassion, and empathy with staff. School is doing everything possible to keep the doors open and school in-person in keeping with the philosophy. Teachers are covering for each other, subbing for one another even outside of their main subject area. Please continue to share kindness and understanding with the teachers as they are working as hard as they can. If numbers change, they will keep us apprised, but the goal is to stay in person.

7:10 New Parent Leadership (Eileen Robinson)

Class sponsors for Class of 2025 are Heather Reeder and Kerry Muhovich. Survey going out to Freshman families. A parent kick off meeting is planned for Tuesday, Jan. 25th at 7:00 pm.

Seeking an at-large PTO member to represent the Class of 2025 and to be on the Executive Board.

According to Jon Poole, many plans are in place for spring activities.

Spirit Store Transition: Jill Van Abbema and Monica Snyder will be taking over by the end of the semester. Looking for new ideas and have plans for an online sale of TJ spirit gear. Thank you to Karla Henke and Carrie Oss for your many years of service leading the spirit store.

7:16 Bus Shelter Update (Krista Zizzo)

Follow up from November discussion to accept funding from Kendra Black's office (District 4 Councilperson). In the 2017-2018 school year, TJ received a \$10,000 grant to create an improved bus shelter and bench on Hampden. RTD built the shelter for TJ students. We are receiving a \$2,500 grant from Kendra's office to rotate art quarterly. We are looking for someone to coordinate and manage this project. More details are available by contacting TJ PTO.

7:21 Pass Through Donations (Eileen Robinson)

TJ PTO is receiving donations that come from foundations and for corporate matching that must be made to a 501(c)3 organization. We can accept these donations and direct them to the appropriate group at school. We

are developing a more streamlined and transparent process. If you are interested in donating to TJ this way, please email TJ PTO and we will help with the process of making this donation. We can accept donations for TJ Athletics on behalf of teams and direct those funds to the team.

7:24 Year End Financial Treasurer's Report (Terri Hetzel)

Financial standing as of the end of December 2021

- Class of 2021 is still working on class gift details.
- Class of 2022 \$12,000
- Class of 2023 \$11,000
- Class of 2024 \$4,300
- Class of 2025 just getting started with leadership and fundraising and will be well positioned.
- \$65,000 available to TJ PTO to use for grants as well as budgeted needs for this school year.

7:27 New Business (Eileen Robinson & Krista Zizzo)

New Vice President: Robyn Schiff is a parent of senior and sophomore at TJ. She is stepping up to take the Vice President role for the remainder of this year and next school year. Vote was approved unanimously.

Grant Process and Request: Teachers typically submit grant request in the spring. Mr. Logan in Math Dept. is promoting a math "problem of the week" by offering a contest with prizes. Sometimes the prizes are individual (e.g., \$50 cash) and sometimes for a larger group of students (e.g., pizza party). He is requesting PTO funds in the amount of \$1,000 to help with prizes for the 5-9 problems of the week planned for the remainder of the school year. PTO approved the grant request.

Scholarship Ideas: Brainstorming different avenues to pursue to make this available to students for their post high school experience. Establishing criteria to make sure it is equitably and fairly awarded is a priority. Also, considering how many, what is the value, can they be funded consistently? Would any parents like to do a feasibility study to determine if this is possible? Possibly granting the funds to another entity in the school to manage the scholarship. Also considering scholarship funds directed toward supporting current struggling TJ students toward graduation. Possibly asking Emily Lupo of Student Excellence Team to get her input on this idea.

7:55 TJ Auction (Megan Perkins & Becca Mahoney)

April 10-14th is timeframe for the TJ Online Auction. This is our 6th year of the online auction. Seeking donations from the community. Creating letters with 501-3c to keep in your car to share with a restaurant or store as you are dining out or shopping. Restaurants are always popular, so keep that in mind. Year over year we've increased the amount earned at the auction. Our target goal for this year is \$20,000. The percentage of fair market value is increasing over time for what we are auctioning off. The money we raise this April will fund next year's grants.

Next month: Guest Speaker will be Scott Baldermann our district's DPS school board member who will update us as to what is happening on the school board.

8:03 pm - Adjournment